

Exerpt from minutes of April 12, 1994

New Business

Hunaha Park project assessment; KJC Consulting, Gary Hathaway

Councilor Cooper stated that he had a personnel, direct financial interest in this item on the agenda. He therefor retired from the Council and took a seat next to Mr. Gary Hathaway. Mr. Hathaway is a park landscape architect. He made a presentation to the Council regarding doing some preliminary work on the Hunaha Park development. Mr. Hathaway and KJC Consulting are proposing to do a preliminary study to determine the scope of work required for the development of the park. The proposal also includes a preliminary design of an interpretive trail along the Grande Ronde River in the vicinity of the park. This work is needed to move the park development forward.

Mr. Hathaway is proposing to spend \$3,500 on design and \$1,500 on an economic assessment of the park.

The City has budgeted \$6,000 for the development of the park in this budget year (1993/1994), \$3,800 remain in this line item. An additional \$1,200 is available from the General Fund Contingency. After discussion, Councilor Smith moved to allocate the remaining \$3,800 and \$1,200 from contingency for this preliminary design and assessment as proposed, with Councilor Churchill as second. The vote was four for approval, with Councilor Cooper abstaining, motion carried.

Work with the Oregon Economic Development Department and the Union County Economic Development Corporation to identify and recruit prospective businesses in targeted industries.

Action C

Develop an industrial park and/or facility suitable for businesses in targeted industries.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 4

Develop recreational and interpretive facilities at Hunaha Park on the Grande Ronde River in Elgin.

Action A

Determine the feasibility of a city park on the Grande Ronde, including an RV park, raft launching facility and interpretive trails and facilities promoting watershed restoration and health.

Action B

Design and develop park facilities as feasible.

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Quality of Life Goal

-> Srch: park

fishing, skiing and white water rafting. These recreational activities have begun to attract new residents, especially retirees from the states of Washington and California. Its historic Opera House, nearby Spout Springs ski area and the Grande Ronde River are just a few of the attractions that draw visitors to this rural community.

Meeting the needs of the visitor industry is one economic opportunity available to the community, improves its retail district and offers more amenities to visitors. Plans are underway to use volunteers to create a park along the Grande Ronde River to provide camping and river access to rafters. From La Grande, Elgin is the most direct route to the Wallowa Mountains and Wallowa Lake. As the tourism industry continues to grow in neighboring Wallowa County, opportunities exist to capture pass-through traffic.

Although downturns in the timber industry have impacted the economy of Elgin, Boise Cascade Timber Company continues to operate a stud mill and plywood plant in town which provide over 250 jobs. Without any organized effort, Elgin has benefited in recent years from the start-up and expansion of a number of small

River. The town has grown basically with its back to the river. The river has the potential of being a major component in enhancing the livability of the community. It also can be the center piece for developing a recreation and light tourist industry. The health of the river and the well being of the fish stocks in the river are an essential element of the strategic plan.

Specific goals set by the group are to: 1) restore river an abandoned side park that is, at this time, a barren waste land; 2) enhance the riparian area along the river and to develop a self guided tour path along the river; 3) identify and develop harvestable products that can both provide an economic benefit to the community and enhance the river quality; 4) develop and enhance the recreation opportunities on and along the river and their associated economic benefits from direct use by the local residents and from tourist trade.

The strategies for reaching our goals include attending meetings of the various water shed restoration bodies. Continuing

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May 21, 1992

Division of State Lands
Environmental Planning and Permits
775 Summer Street NE.
Salem, Oregon 97310-1337

Dear Reviewers,

The enclosed application is for a park development within the City limits of Elgin. The site is an abandoned park owned by the City. It is my understanding that during the '50s the large cottonwood trees at the park were dying and as a result were removed. A bandstand or pavilion in the park had become dilapidated and that too was removed. Since that time the park has not been maintained.

Over the past several years the City has obtained a gravel removal permit to mine 300 cu.yds. of material annually from a gravel bar along the east edge of the site. 10 to 15 years ago the park area was leveled in anticipation of redeveloping the park. This development never occurred.

The park site is on the Grande Ronde River. The recent interest in river rafting has brought renewed interest in the site as a launch for river rafts. In addition to a raft launch the City Council and the Walla Walla Ranger District have identified the site as a possible overnight camp site. In 1990 the Forest Service, Walla Walla Ranger District, did the design work for this park to develop a boat launch and overnight camping.

At this time the City is attempting to get cooperative funding to continue development. Bob Wynia of OEDD is coordinating this effort. If you have any further questions please contact me or Bob.

Sincerely,

Joe Garlitz
Recorder/Administrator

Enclosures

xc. Bob Wynia
Rural Development Coordinator, OEDD
775 Summer Street NE
Salem, Oregon

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6. Specific goals set by the group are to: 1) restore river side park that is, at this time, a barren waste land; 2) to enhance the river riparian area along the river and to possibly develop a nature path along the river, 3) to identify and develop harvestable products that can both provide an economic benefit to the community and enhance the river quality, 4) to develop and enhance the recreation opportunities on and along the river and their associated economic benefits from direct use by the local residents and from tourist trade.

7. The strategies for reaching our goals include attending meeting like this to gain information on resources, programs and

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